

EXHIBIT 3



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Transcript of Stephen S. Seeling

Date: September 16, 2019

Case: Russell, et al. -v- Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MONIQUE RUSSELL, JASMINE : CASE NO.
RIGGINS, ELSA M. POWELL : 2:18-cv-05629-JW
and DESIRE EVANS, :
:
Plaintiffs :
:
vs. :
:
EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION :
FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL :
GRADUATES, :
:
Defendants :
:

- - -
Monday, September 16, 2019
- - -

Deposition of STEPHEN S. SEELING was taken
pursuant to notice at 1701 Market Street, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, before Nancy Carides, RPR, CRR and Notary
Public, on the above date, and commencing at 12:00 p.m.

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1 court reporter can take down my questions and your
2 answers. Please, first of all, wait for me to finish
3 my question before you answer, and I will wait for you
4 to finish your answer before I ask another question.
5 Okay?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If at any point in time I ask you a
8 question that you don't understand, please let me know
9 and I'll make an effort to rephrase the question.
10 Okay?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If you answer a question that I've
13 asked, I'm going to assume that you've understood the
14 question. Is that fair?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And if you need to take a break at any
17 point in time, please let me know and we'll take a
18 break. Okay?

19 A. Um-hum. Yes.

20 MR. CERYES: Patrick, are you hearing
21 us okay?

22 MR. THRONSON: I am. Thanks.

23 BY MR. CERYES:

24 Q. All right. Mr. Seeling, are you
25 currently employed?

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1 A. I am not.

2 Q. Where were you last employed?

3 A. I was a consultant with St. George's
4 School of Medicine.

5 Q. When were you last employed with ECFMG?

6 A. 2013.

7 Q. And when did you begin with ECFMG?

8 A. 1998.

9 Q. Mr. Seeling, can you describe for me
10 your educational background?

11 A. Sure. College and beyond?

12 Q. Let's start with college.

13 A. Graduated from Tufts University in
14 Medford, Massachusetts in 1971. Graduated from Temple
15 University School of Law in 1976.

16 Q. And can you provide for me a brief
17 narrative of your professional career since the
18 completion of your law degree?

19 A. Sure. My first job was in the
20 Philadelphia District Attorney's Office beginning in
21 1976. We relocated to South Carolina. I was an
22 Assistant Attorney General in South Carolina.
23 Subsequent to that, I became the Executive Director of
24 the South Carolina State Board of Medical Examiners.
25 I then had a position as Vice President and General

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1 Counsel with UCI Medical Affiliates and with a
2 practice management firm in South Carolina. Then in
3 1998 I was recruited by ECFMG, and I returned to the
4 Philadelphia area.

5 Q. When you started at ECFMG, what role
6 did you come into?

7 A. Vice President of Operations.

8 Q. Is that a role that you maintained
9 until you left in 2013?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. So, where did you go after you left
12 ECFMG?

13 A. I worked with St. George's University
14 School of Medicine, which the campus is in Grenada.

15 Q. What caused you to leave ECFMG in 2013?

16 A. I had had a really good run of almost
17 fifteen years. I was a bit bored, and I had a very
18 good opportunity with St. George's.

19 Q. And when did you leave St. George's?

20 A. I worked with St. George's for two
21 years.

22 Q. Would that be approximately 2015 when
23 you left?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What caused you to leave St. George's?

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1 A. My wife was retiring, we were
2 relocating outside the Philadelphia area, and I
3 thought that it was time to relax a bit.

4 Q. Have you left each of your professional
5 roles, positions, on a volunteer basis through the
6 course of your career?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Have you ever been a defendant in any
9 criminal matter since turning the age of eighteen?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Now, while you were with ECFMG, did you
12 participate in any criminal investigation of an
13 individual who was variously known as Akoda or
14 Igberase?

15 A. Let me make sure I understand. You're
16 asking about a criminal investigation?

17 Q. Correct.

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. Did you participate in any
20 internal investigation by ECFMG regarding the person,
21 again, variously known as Akoda or Igberase after
22 approximately the year 2006?

23 MS. McENROE: Objection to form.

24 THE WITNESS: I just don't remember
25 after 2006.

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1 that question, because it seems that it
2 involves both hindsight, foresight, and
3 speculation. So, again, this letter speaks
4 for itself. In typical fashion, I would have
5 approved a letter like this. Again, I have no
6 specific recollection of this letter. But I
7 can't answer your question further.

8 BY MR. CERYES:

9 Q. How often did the committee meet?

10 A. Generally speaking, it met in
11 conjunction with board meetings, like, three times a
12 year.

13 Q. So, I would assume, based upon what we
14 discussed earlier, in most cases, there will be some
15 matters for the committee to consider and to schedule
16 a meeting; fair?

17 A. They generally had a fairly full
18 agenda.

19 Q. Can you recall any other instance in
20 which an applicant received a letter setting forth
21 charges of irregular behavior but that matter did not
22 get brought to the attention of the medical education
23 credentials committee?

24 A. You know, I don't have a recollection
25 yay or nay. I would say just generally that this is a

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1 snapshot, things can change subsequent to, but I just
2 don't have a recollection whether or not there were
3 other cases where a charge letter was issued and then
4 subsequently a re-evaluation took place. I know that
5 was always built into the process. I just don't
6 remember whether or not that, in fact, happened.

7 Q. And you refer to the process. This is
8 not a written process, correct?

9 A. Well, I mean, there were procedures set
10 forth in the documents relating to the credentials
11 committee in terms of the process of the hearing and
12 that kind of thing. Again, at some point, I can't
13 recall, but sometime after I came onboard, those
14 procedures were substantially revised. So, there were
15 documents that pertained, generally, to the scope and
16 purview and authority of the credentials committee.

17 Q. If, in fact, you believed that Akoda
18 and Igberase were, in fact, one and the same person,
19 you would agree that in that circumstance that would
20 warrant referral to the Committee on Medical Education
21 Credentials?

22 MS. McENROE: Objection to form.

23 THE WITNESS: Probably, yes.

24 BY MR. CERYES:

25 Q. And why is that?

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1 A. Because there was precedent.

2 Q. And what's the precedent that you're
3 referring to? Is that Igberase's history?

4 A. No, I'm talking about other cases.

5 Q. So, describe what you mean by
6 precedent. What are the other instances?

7 A. I think you know what a precedent
8 means. It means that there may have been other cases
9 in the past where the question number 1, have you
10 ever, was answered incorrectly.

11 Q. Did you ever meet with Akoda,
12 personally?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you instruct Bill Kelly to meet
15 with Akoda, personally?

16 A. I don't have any recollection of that.

17 Q. I'd like to direct your attention to
18 Exhibit Number 37 from Mr. Kelly's deposition. This
19 is a memo to the file from William Kelly. My first
20 question is when a memorandum was written to a
21 particular file, such as this, was there a physical
22 file that it would get slipped into for a particular
23 applicant?

24 A. In 2000?

25 Q. Yes.

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1 A. Probably.

2 Q. So, was there, and I'm just kind of
3 trying to wrap my head around it, was there a
4 particular manila folder, or something to that effect,
5 in a file room where if everything was going to plan
6 you could go down to the file, pick out the Akoda
7 file, and there would be a memo such as this from
8 William Kelly in that file?

9 A. Well, there were cases that were under
10 review by the credentials committee, and those files
11 were maintained.

12 Q. Was Akoda's file under review by the
13 credentials committee?

14 A. I may have misspoke or I may have
15 misled. When there was an allegation that was being
16 looked at, generally, a file would be generated.

17 Q. I assume that every applicant at ECFMG
18 has some kind of file, a physical file, or did have in
19 2000?

20 A. Back in those days, yes.

21 Q. So, when there was an allegation of
22 irregular conduct, a secondary file would be created
23 relating to that allegation?

24 MS. McENROE: Objection to form.

25 THE WITNESS: You know, I, A, can't

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the proceedings and
evidence noted are contained fully and accurately in
the stenographic notes taken by me in the foregoing
matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the
same.



NANCY CARIDES, RPR, CRR

Notary Public

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